



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of :

Dan NILSSON *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/720,096

Filed: December 21, 2000

Group Art Unit: 1632

Examiner: D.J. STEADMAN

For: METHOD OF PREVENTING BACTERIOPHAGE INFECTION
OF BACTERIAL CULTURES

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action of December 7, 2001, please consider the following remarks.

I. RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT IS TRAVERSED

In the Office Action, it was stated that the application contains two groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. Such groups were identified as:

Group I, claim(s) 1-17 and 24-27, drawn to a method of modifying a substrate material by a bacterial culture that is active in said substrate and is not susceptible to attack by bacteriophage.

Group II, claim(s) 18-23, drawn to a modified lactic acid bacterium.

Office Action, page 2.

It was further stated that the inventions of Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, allegedly, under PCT Rule

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